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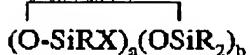
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

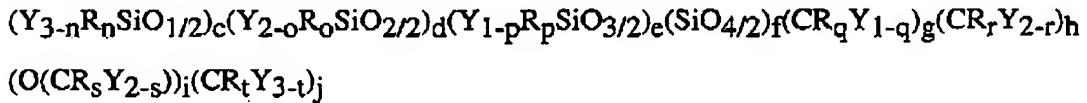
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising (1) heating in the presence of an acidic ring opening polymerization catalyst, a mixture comprising

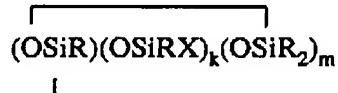
(i) at least one organohydrogensilicon compound containing at least one silicon-bonded hydrogen atom per molecule or a reaction product obtained by mixing in the presence of a platinum group metal-containing catalyst at least one organohydrogensilicon compound containing at least one silicon-bonded hydrogen atom per molecule and at least one compound having at least one aliphatic unsaturation where in each case the organohydrogensilicon compound is described by formula (I)



where each R is independently selected from a hydrogen atom and a monovalent hydrocarbon group comprising 1 to 20 carbon atoms which is free from aliphatic unsaturation, a is an integer from 1 to 18, b is an integer from 1 to 19, a + b is an integer from 3 to 20, each X is an independently selected functional group selected from a halogen atom, an ether group, an alkoxy group, an alkoxyether group, an acyl group, or a silyl group, or a $-Z-R^4$ group, where each Z is independently selected from an oxygen and a divalent hydrocarbon group comprising 2 to 20 carbon atoms, each R^4 group is independently selected from $-BR_uY_{2-u}$, $-SiR_vY_{3-v}$, or a group described by formula (II):



where B refers to boron, each R is as described above, the sum of c+d+e+f+g+h+i+j is at least 2, n is an integer from 0 to 3, o is an integer from 0 to 2, p is an integer from 0 to 1, q is an integer from 0 to 1, r is an integer from 0 to 2, s is an integer from 0 to 2, t is an integer from 0 to 3, u is an integer from 0 to 2, v is an integer from 0 to 3, each Y is an independently selected functional group selected from a halogen atom, an ether group, an alkoxy group, an alkoxyether group, an acyl group, or a silyl group, or a Z-G group, where Z is as described above, each G is a cyclosiloxane described by formula (III):



where R and X are as described above, k is an integer from 0 to 18, m is an integer from 0 to 18, k+m is an integer from 2 to 20, provided in formula (II) that one of the Y groups is replaced by the Z group bonding the R⁴ group to the cyclosiloxane of formula (I), and provided further at least one X group of Formula (I) is a -Z-R⁴ group;

(ii) at least one endblocker described by formula (IV) R'₃SiO(MeR'SiO)_zSiR'₃, where z ranges from 0 to 150 and each R' is independently chosen from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkenyl, dienyl or functional alkyls where the functionality may be fluoro, fluoroether, polyether, ether, aryl, silyl, siloxy, carboxy, glycosidyl or acrylate, and optionally

(iii) at least one organosiloxane chosen from a hydrolyzate described by formula (V) HO(MeR'SiO)_y'H and a cyclosiloxane described by formula (VI) (MeR'SiO)_y where y is an integer from 3 to 30, y' is an integer from 1 to 500, and each R' is as described above;

provided if component (i) is a reaction product and it does not contain any silicon-bonded hydrogen bonds then at least one R' of either component (ii) or (iii) is hydrogen,

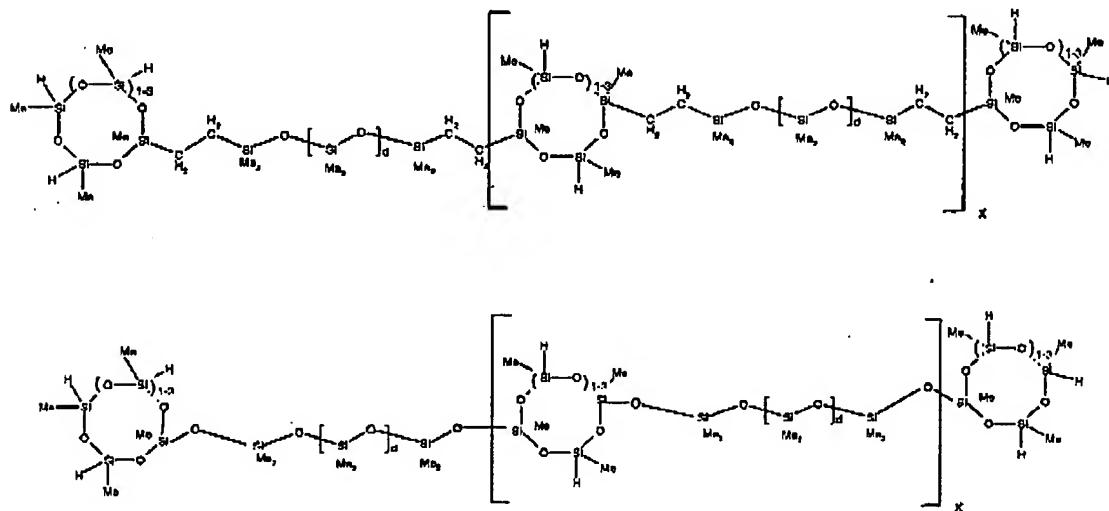
so to cause polymerization of components (i), (ii), and optionally (iii) to form silicon-bonded hydrogen containing branched polymers.

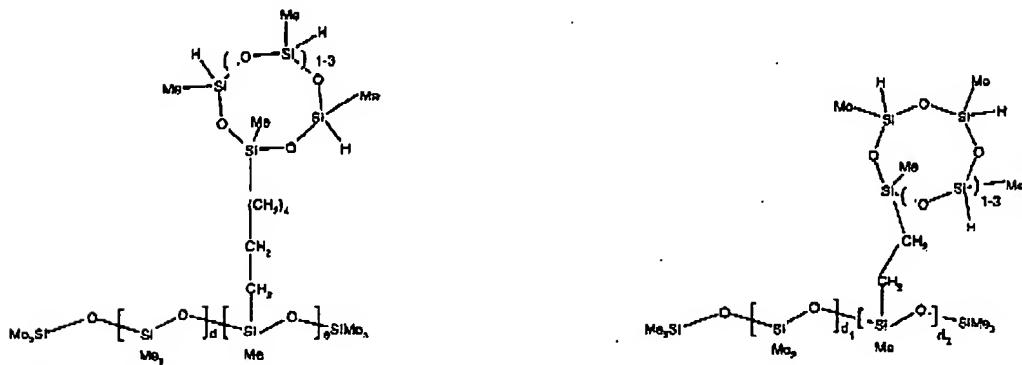
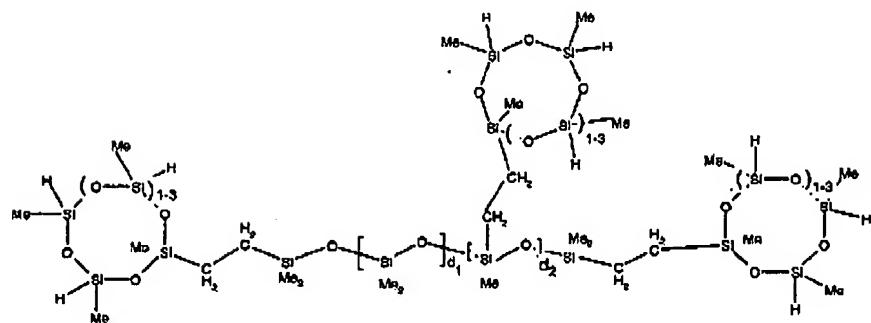
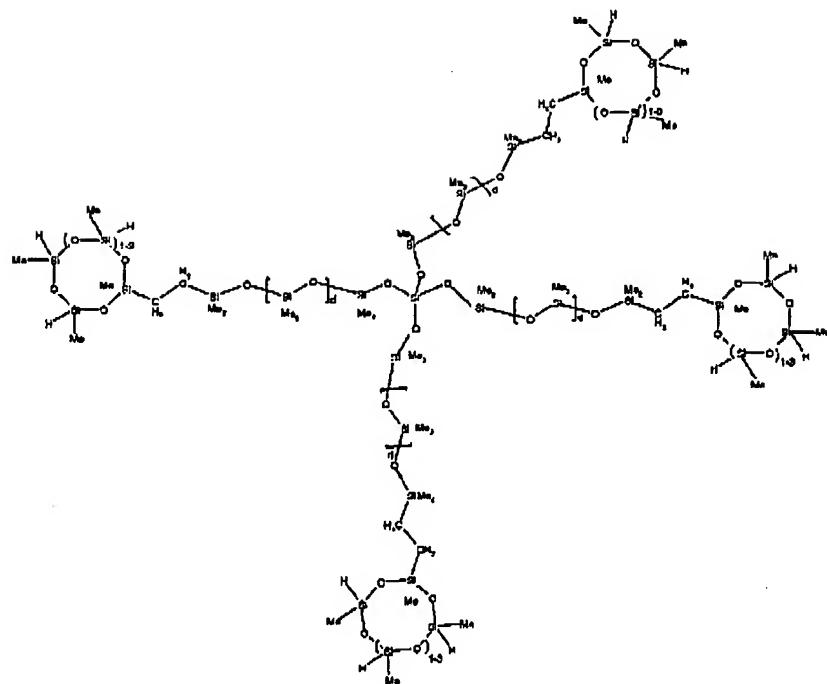
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 where subscript b is an integer from 2 to 19, subscript c is an integer from 0 to 50, subscript d is an integer from 0 to 5000, subscript e is an integer from 0 to 48, subscript f is an integer from 0 to 24, subscript g is an integer from 0 to 50, subscript h is

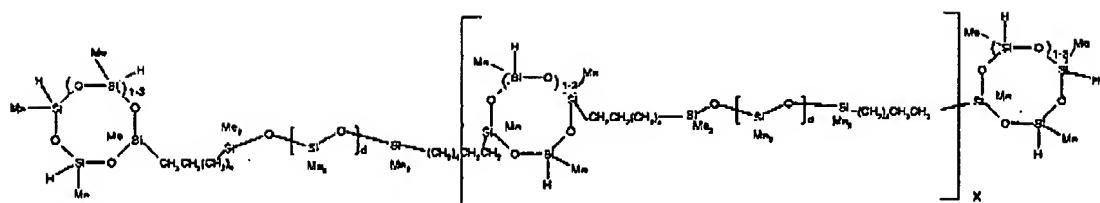
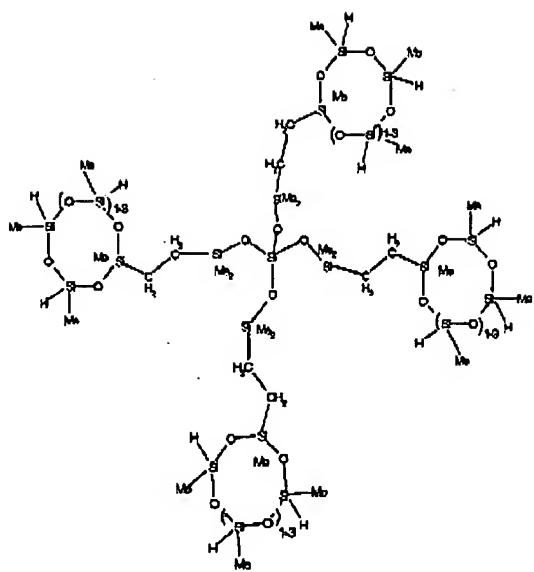
an integer from 0 to 50, subscript i is an integer from 0 to 50, and subscript j is an integer from 0 to 50.

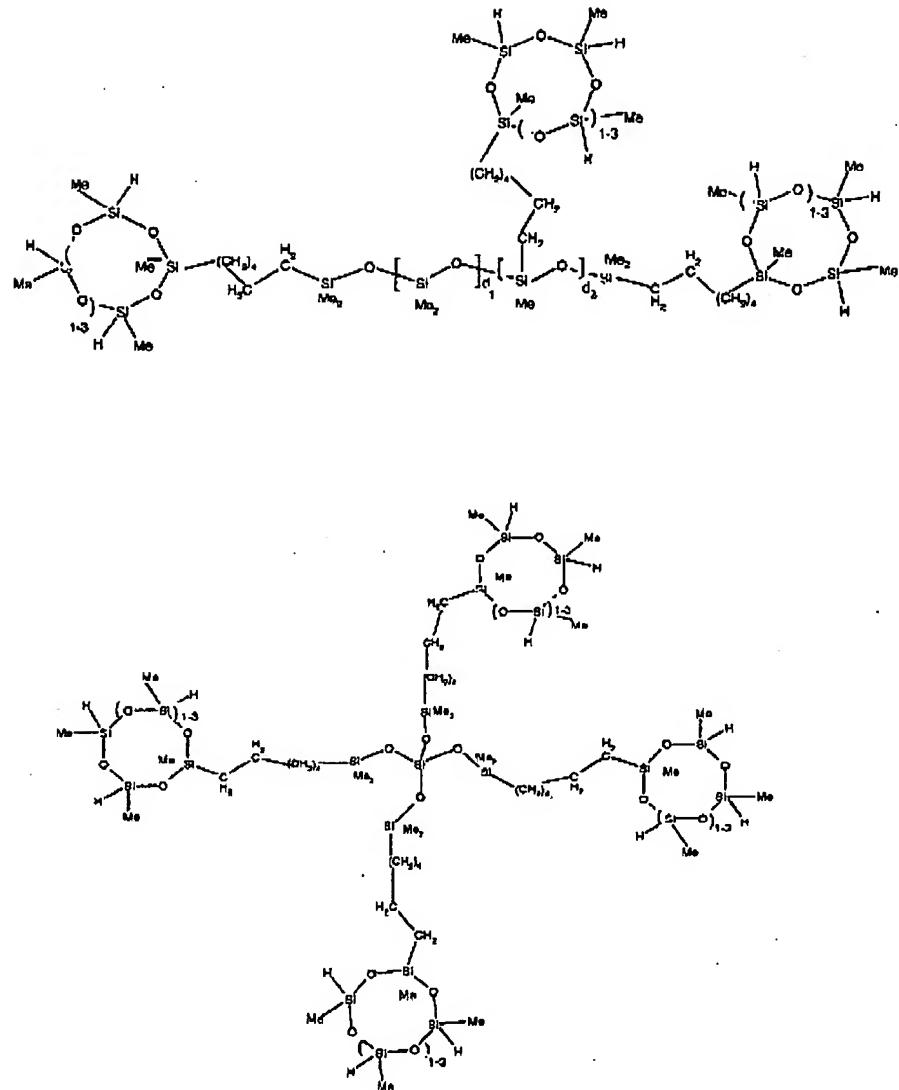
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 where each R group is independently selected from hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups comprising 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or aryl groups comprising 6 to 9 carbon atoms, each X is a Z-R⁴ group or is independently selected from chloro, methoxy, isopropoxy, where Z is a divalent hydrocarbon group, and R⁴ is selected from -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -O(CH₂CH₂O)_{z'}-, where z' = 1-100, O(CH₂CH₂CH₂O)_{z''}-, where z'' = 1-100 and siloxane groups described by -R₂SiO(R₂SiO)_dSiR₂-Z-G, -R₂SiOSiR₃, -R₂SiOSiR₂-Y, and -RSi(OSiR₃)₂, where d is an integer from 1 to 50 and Z, G, and R are as described above..

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in of claim 1 where the organohydrogensilicon compound is selected from the structures below where Me is methyl, d¹ + d² = d, and x is an integer in a range from 1 to 100:

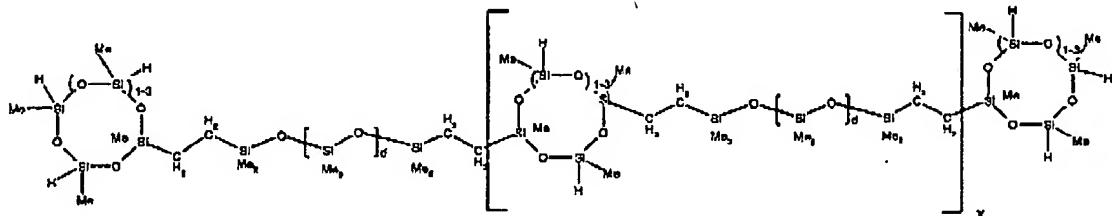








5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 where the organohydrogensilicon compound is described by the structure below where Me is methyl, d is an average of 8, and x is an integer from 1 to 15.



6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 where R' is independently chosen from alkyl, fluoroalkyl, or alkenyl, component (ii) is added in amounts from 3 to 1000 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of component (i), and component (iii) is added in amounts from 0 to 1000 parts by weight.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 where component (i) is the reaction product obtained by mixing in the presence of a platinum group metal-containing catalyst at least one organohydrogensilicon compound containing at least one silicon-bonded hydrogen atom per molecule and at least one compound having at least one aliphatic unsaturation.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 further comprising (2) mixing in the presence of a platinum group metal-containing catalyst, the silicon-bonded hydrogen containing branched polymers from step (1) with (iv) at least one material having at least one aliphatic unsaturation to form a branched polymer.

10. (Currently Amended) A silicon-bonded hydrogen containing branched polymer made by the method ~~of~~ ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1.

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11. (Previously Presented) A branched polymer made by the method of claim 9.
12. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the silicon-bonded hydrogen containing branched polymer of claim 10.
13. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the silicon-bonded hydrogen containing branched polymer of claim 10, a Si-alkenyl crosslinker, a platinum-group containing catalyst, and an inhibitor.
14. (New) The method of claim 1 where the acidic ring opening polymerization catalyst is triflic acid and acid ion exchange resins.
15. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of the acidic ring opening polymerization catalyst is in the range of 10 parts per million to 2 parts by weight based on the total weight percent solids in the composition.
16. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the polymerization is carried out in the presence of a solvent.
17. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein component (iii) is added in amounts from 100 to 1000 parts by weight.
18. (New) A silicon-bonded hydrogen containing branched polymer made by the method of claim 4.
19. (New) A silicon-bonded hydrogen containing branched polymer made by the method of claim 17.

20. (New) A composition comprising the silicon-bonded hydrogen containing branched polymer of claim 18, a Si-alkenyl crosslinker, a platinum-group containing catalyst, and an inhibitor.
21. (New) A composition comprising the silicon-bonded hydrogen containing branched polymer of claim 19, a Si-alkenyl crosslinker, a platinum-group containing catalyst, and an inhibitor.